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Abstract Of The Invention

A video overlay switching apparatus and method utilizes a common video scaler that receives input video data. A programmable switching mechanism, such as a register-controlled multiplexer, receives video information from the video scaler, either scaled video or unscaled video, and selectively routes the video data to any one of a plurality of video overlay generators to facilitate selective display of overlay data on a specified display device. The programmable switching mechanism also facilitates programming of frame buffer space for each display engine, based on which video overlay generator has been selected to receive input video.